

Sherry's Garden Stories

March 2017

Pruning for Harvest

"Every branch that bears fruit, He prunes, that it may bear more fruit"

John 15: 2

Everyone desires to have a life of abundance. God desires to give us this abundance. His strategy for this abundance however, is usually not the one you and I would prefer. His plan is to prune and to cut away immature commitments and immature thinking to make room for a great abundance of His glory to shine in you and in your life.

If your life bears fruit, God will intervene to prune you. It's all about the heart and what God desires to bring forth. It's all about Him showing us our heart. It's about how we can share God's love and faithfulness to us. He prunes because He loves us.

Sometimes pruning is like being on a chopping block. It hurts. When the branches of a grapevine gets hard you have to prune with an axe. This is usually because they are hard and stubborn. Same goes with our hearts. When we are stubborn and unforgiving the pruning can be hard. This is where we have to surrender and trust God's plan. We need to let Him love us through the pruning.

Most of the time we don't understand pruning. If we look at our heart and are truly honest, we can see the flaw of our hearts and minds. Sometimes it is not easy to look within. We need to let God heal the heart issues and clear our mind.

Don't believe the lie that you are above the need for pruning. You want to go forward, excel, and have a worthwhile relationship. You have to let the Lord prune. It is a win, win situation.

Your relationship with God is closer. You have an understanding of who you are in Christ. You feel physically, emotionally and actually spiritually closer to God. Plus, you have learned something worthwhile to pass on to others.

Usually, the pruning of plants take place in the spring or the fall. God's pruning is on HIS TIME SCHEDULE.

Grape Vine

Vitaceae

Grapes are among the ornamental vines with bold, textured foliage, colorful, edible fruit; and a dominate trunk and branch pattern.

A single grapevine can produce enough new growth to arch over a walkway or roof an arbor; form a leafy wall or provide an umbrella of shade over a deck or terrace.

For good quality of grapes choose a type that fits your climate and prune it regularly. There are several types of grapes. European grapes, *Vitis uinifera*, have tight skin and they require high heat and they can tolerate cold to about zero degree Fahrenheit. These are considered market table grapes, and are called "Thompson seedless".

The classic wine grape, such as "Cabernet", "Chardonnay", and "Pinot Noir", are also European in origin. The American grape is derived from "V Labrusca". American grapes are used mainly for jelly, unfermented grape juice, and as a soft drink favoring.

Each variety must be pruned to get an abundance of grapes. Pruning is an art and it varies each year. Just as the grape is pruned the Lord prunes us. This allows God to bring forth his heart of fruit in us.